

March 18, 2020

Dear Secretary, Mnuchin:

As President and CEO of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA), and on behalf of the more than 18,000 members, I urge you to consider granting need relief to tax practitioners and taxpayers across this country.

Please act immediately by extending the April 15th filing deadline to July 15th. This is critical to the taxpayer community.

Unfortunately, the important payment relief that was announced Tuesday and formalized in yesterday's notice does not apply to the filing of tax returns and does not reflect the real-world difficulties tax practitioners and their clients are facing.

It is reported that nearly 60% of all taxpayers turn to a tax practitioner to prepare and file their tax returns. Given this substantial statistic, closing business offices across this country can only create a backlog of filing returns.

The COVID-19 Coronavirus crisis has inflicted great stress on both taxpayers and tax preparers. Many adults are restructuring their lives to care for school children who are under a mandate to stay home, workers are prevented from entering their offices to process tax returns and *taxpayers are no longer allowed to have in person meetings with tax preparers*. These, along with many other circumstances, are resulting in an ever increasing burden to file tax returns in accordance with the original due dates.

Providing relief for the filing deadlines would be of great value to all taxpayers. We ask that Treasury give this serious consideration immediately to relieve additional burdens to our taxpayers.

The decision to grant relief in the form of extensions for both the filing of returns and payment of tax may also provide the needed example for state departments of revenue to grant consistent relief.

As these unprecedented times call on us to engage in unprecedented measures, assisting all our taxpayers to focus on health and safety is imperative. The CPA profession can assist, however, to ensure success, we need payment and filing relief together.

We appreciate your efforts to guide the country through this unique and troubling time in our history.

Respectfully,



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